(ii) Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP). A provision of Rs. 13.00 crore has been made in their budget during the current financial year, 2000-01.

(iii) Condensed Courses of Educational and Vocational Training for Women (CCE&VT). A provision of Rs. 1.50 crore has been made in their budget during the current financial year, 2000-01.

(iv) Rashtriya Mahila Kosh gives funds to NGOs to promote self-employment. A provision of Rs. 3.00 crore has been made in their budget during the current financial year, 2000-01.

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has provided grant-in-aid to the Guild of Service, New Delhi for their project for rehabilitation of widows at Vrindavan (U.P.). A total grain-in-aid of Rs. 15.97 lakhs has been given during the period from 1998-99 to 2000-01.

Amount for development of SCs in Orissa through NSCFDC

900. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent for the development of Scheduled Castes people in Orissa through National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation;

(b) whether it is a fact that the amount spent is small as compared to that of any other State;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) the schemes and amount sanctioned by National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation for Orissa during the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Orissa SC and ST Finance Co-op. Corporation Limited has reported utilization of Rs. 1208.83 lakhs out of funds obtained from National SC&ST Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) by providing financial assistance to SC and ST beneficiaries as on 31.3.2000.

(b) and (c) NSFDC allocates available resources to all States/UT level channelising agencies in the beginning of financial year based on each State/

UT's SC/ST population in proportion to total SC/ST population of the country. Therefore flow of funds is not comparable with other States/UTs.

Year 1998-99		(Rs. in lakhs)
(i) Amount sanctioned	:	908.07
(ii) No. of Schemes	:	28
Year 1999-2000		
(iii) Amount sanctioned	:	1626.44
(iv). No. of Schemes	:	19

Services of contract employees in MECON

901. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants India Ltd. (MECON) has absorbed/regularised the services of contract employees, both technical and non-technical;

(b) if so, how many such contract employees have been regularised/ absorbed as on 30th June, 2000;

(c) what procedure/criterion was adopted in regularising their services; and

(d) whether these contract employees were subjected to written tests/ interviews also and if so, the complete details of providing regular appointments to these employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir. MECON have in the past absorbed contract employees, subject to availability of permanent posts.

(b) Number of such employees regularised during the last five years is 21.

(c) The procedure adopted in regularisation of employment of contract employees is as follows:

(i) Availability of posts

(ii) Seniority in employment in Contract Service

(iii) Performance during Contract Employment

(iv) Performance in Interview in case of engineers.